

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ashley Sturgeon (Reg. No. 64,819) on 04/14/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace claim 1 with the following:

1. A computer-implemented method for facilitating placement of health care order entry, comprising:

receiving, utilizing a first computer process, input indicative of a desired healthcare order having terms therein;

normalizing, utilizing a second computer process, the terms of the healthcare order, wherein the normalizing includes separating number strings within the healthcare order that begin a term into separate terms;

finding possible drug matches for the normalized terms, and calculating a rough score for possible order matches;

refining the rough score with a rough score adjustment; and

ranking the found possible order matches from the most-likely to match the desired healthcare order to the least-likely based upon the refined rough score, wherein the first and second computer processes are executed utilizing one or more computing devices.

Please cancel claim 9.

Please replace claim 20 with the following:

20. A computer-implemented method for facilitating placement of health care order entry, comprising:

receiving, utilizing a first computer process, input indicative of a desired healthcare order having terms therein;

normalizing, utilizing a second computer process, the terms of the healthcare order, wherein the normalizing includes:

converting a case of the terms of the healthcare order to match that existing in a database;

replacing any abbreviations with known terms corresponding to the respective abbreviations;

determining whether a number exists at an end of the healthcare order; and

based on a determination that the healthcare order does not end with a number, separating number strings within the healthcare order that begin a term into separate terms;
identifying a plurality of possible order matches; and
ranking the plurality of possible order matches from the most-likely to match the desired healthcare order to the least-likely;
wherein the first and second computer processes are executed utilizing one or more computing devices.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8 and 20 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. As per claim 1, the primary reason for the indication of allowable subject matter is that the recitation of the following limitations in the combination as recited are not found in the prior art.
5. Applicant teaches a method for facilitating placement of health care order entry comprising: receiving input of a desired healthcare order having terms, normalizing the terms, including separating number strings within the health care order that begin a term into separate terms, finding possible drug matches using the normalized terms, calculating a rough score for possible matches, refining the rough score with an

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adjustment, and ranking the found possible order matches from the most likely to the least likely to match based upon the refined rough score.

6. The closest prior art, Lovis, Payne, provides detailed information concerning entering medical orders and search strings in existing medical order entry system. Lovis, Payne fails to teach the detail of separating a term that begins with a number string into separate terms. U.S. 2002/016585 to Gogolak teaches normalizing entries into a pharmacovigilance database by removing numbers (paragraph 56), but fails to distinguish between terms that contain number strings at the beginning or end of the term, and also fails to teach separating the numbers into their own terms. No other prior art has been found to remedy the shortcomings of the current references.

7. As per claim 20, and all claims dependent on claim 1, embodying the method of the invention, are allowed for the same reasons set forth for claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 6,202,062 to Cameron et al, US 7,624,029 to Ghouri, and DE 103 58 385 A1 to Brune et al.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANITA MOLINA whose telephone number is (571)270-3614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Morgan can be reached on 571-272-6773. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. M./

Examiner, Art Unit 3626

/C. Luke Gilligan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3626